

## WOMEN OF TO-DAY

Mrs. Morton Likely to be the Social Leader in Washington the Next Four Years.

Miss Wainwright on Success on the Stage—Connemara's Fair Daughters.

The Princess Who is to Marry the Heir to the Russian Crown—Mrs. Cleveland at Work.

That Mrs. Levi P. Morton will be the leader of fashion in Washington for the next four years is beyond a doubt. Unlike any of the ladies who have taken precedence in the white house since the war, she is fortified by the experience of not less than twenty seasons in the very best circles of continental and New York society. Her long residence abroad, her familiarity with the etiquette of court life and her extensive acquaintance among the representatives of crowned heads of the world combine to make her, perhaps, the best authority on social forms and usages in America. At least, such is the estimation of the "400," of which delightful circle she is an honored member and a distinct leader. Elegant in bearing, irresistible in manner, quick, vivacious and witty, she is a very queen in a social gathering, and her powers of conversation and her knowledge of French, German and Spanish, which languages she speaks fluently, make her the envy of women and the admiration of men. Then, too, she has that wonderful tact which enables her to make the best and bring out the best of everything and everybody. She has five children, the eldest a girl of sixteen, who gives promise of great beauty and brilliancy, and in her training of these little people she keeps up her own studies and her interest in the new education. Her house in Fifth avenue is a grand old place, with spacious rooms and long, broad halls and staircases. The walls are hung with portraits and engravings of famous men and women and illustrious ancestors, and the cabinets and mantel shelves abound in curios of historic or romantic interest. Just beyond the vestibule is a polished mahogany, broad enough to hold a silver card tray, into which the notes and pasteboards for the vice-president are dropped by the well-trained servant. All about the polished surface are the cards for Mrs. Morton, variously pinched at the corners and hastily inscribed with dates and hours for engagements. It needs only a glance at the titles and addresses on these cards to prove the extent and cosmopolitanism of her social acquaintance.

If there is any one thing that provokes what might be called municipal envy, it is Mrs. Morton's coach and coachman, for in all New York there is not another turn-out which has been so steadily pursued as a model, par excellence. Men and women have given their groans half a dozen times a week through to ride after Billy White, and livery men and carriage manufacturers who undertake the appointment and equipment of private stables own up to sending the newly-engaged coachmen after Mrs. Morton's brougham to study the deportment of the man on the box. Billy White, as his name implies, is a Caucasian—Englishman by birth, who from a boy was raised among horses and got his training to go into the service of his royal highness the Prince of Wales. When Princess Louise went to live in Canada Billy White went with her, and all through her residence there had charge of the governor-general's stables. In 1884 he was secured by Mr. Morton, and ever since has driven Mrs. Morton's carriage. William White has had the real academy training. Mrs. Morton's carriage is a snug one of the brougham pattern, finished a deep red-brown, with touches of crimson on the box and wheels. The upholstery is done in bottle-green broadcloth, and one of the seats is raised and cushioned to the extreme comfort of the mistress. By means of an electric bell Mrs. Morton can put herself in communication with the paragon on the box, to whom every ring is as significant as the click of a telegraph wire to an operator. There are compartments about the interior for parcels, cards, a cloak, mirror, fan, umbrella, coins and vinaigrette, and in the floor is a zinc box for a hot brick.

Elements of Success on the Stage.  
Marie Wainwright says: There is a great craze among young girls just out of school to go on the stage. Many of them are awkward and have not the necessary physical requirements, yet they feel very much hurt if I try to discourage them. One must have a good physical appearance to do well on the stage. In tragedy roles height is necessary, but it is not so important in comedy. An expressive face is required. I think the mouth is more expressive than the eyes. One should have a fair share of intelligence, a medium of good looks, a sweet voice, and the rest depends upon hard work and application. I don't believe in actors of acting, but think it better for aspirants to work their way up on the stage. All eminent actors and actresses have come up in this way. Young girls who recite at parlor entertainments and are successful will find it very different to act with the ensemble of the stage. They lack the practical experience that only stage work gives, and usually have to unlearn what has been taught them and begin at the foundation.

After a beginning has been made, a young man or a young woman should get in a company with artists of eminence, and should be on the qui vive to watch them. Much can be learned from observation. When not acting stand in the entrance and watch every gesture and the delivery of every word. Application is everything. If connected with a legitimate company study up other parts aside from your own, so as to be able to go on at a moment's notice. The profession is full of opportunities, and a young actor or actress should always be ready to take advantage of them. The ability to acquire lines is a great help. Women have a quicker grasp of lines than men, and retain the lines better. Shakespeare's plays, and those by Sheridan, Knowles and others in blank verse, are easiest to remember. If I have not played one of them for five years I can go on with it just the same. The modern society dramas are evanescent. The lines leave you as soon as the piece is changed. The old comedies are easy to remember. The success of an actor or actress depends very much upon the ability of the stage manager. He is a much more important person now than he was thirty years ago.

The Handsome Women of Connemara.  
Irish Letter: The women of Connemara are picturesque in attire and shapely in form to a remarkable degree. Their limbs are long and graceful. They are erect and spirited in carriage, and the immense black braids, or cloaks, with which all short-comings in clothing are shrouded, fall in truly classic folds about them. Barelimbed as the men, at all seasons, you will not infrequently catch glimpses of legs as exquisitely moulded as those of the Venus

of Cos; while the most voluptuous types of southern Europe, or languorous tropical Cuba, furnish no more perfect examples of tapering, dimpled arms, beautifully formed shoulders, and full but lengthened neck with dove-like double curve. The broad, large faces are still superbly oval. The chin has strength, the full, shapely mouth is red and tenderly, expressively curved; the regular teeth are charming in pearl-white glint and dazzle; the nose is large, well cut, with thin, sensitive nostrils; the eyes, under long, heavy lashes, look straight and honestly at you out of clear, large depths of gray or blue; the eyebrows are marvels of Nature's penciling; the forehead is wide and fair, and such heads of hair crown all that were they unloosed the Connemara women could stand clad in lustrous black immeasurably surpassing her sleek-black braids. Not a thread is on them besides the Connemara dannel. It is spun from the wool of the mountain sheep.

A Future Empress of Russia.  
Paris Letter: One of the most widely talked-of of the approaching royal betrothals is probably only delayed. It is that of the Czarowitz to the Princess Alix of Hesse-Darmstadt. They are both so very young, the gentleman being 20 and the lady 16, that a postponement of a few years would seem to be a wise and prudent measure. Meanwhile the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt is invited to visit the Russian court during the coming summer and to bring his young daughter with him, a proceeding that will probably do much towards consolidating the projected alliance. For the Princess Alix is said to be the prettiest of the unmarried royal girls of Europe, promising to resemble, if not, indeed, to surpass in loveliness, that splendid beauty, her elder sister, the Grand Duchess Sergius. I wonder how that superb lady will endure to see a younger sister exalted over her by becoming the future czarina. If indeed the match ever does take place. But personal charms are potent elements in the marrying off of a princess, and the young heir to the Russian throne is probably as susceptible to the winning qualities of a very pretty girl as are most youths of his age. And his mother, having been wedded and wedded for her beauty, and having been an exceptionally happy wife, will probably look with favor on a union accomplished under similar influences with her own.

Mrs. Cleveland in Literature.  
Boston Journal: I have reliable authority in stating that Mrs. Cleveland will make a mild venture into literature soon after her retirement to private life. Her undertaking will be a modest one, consisting of a magazine article, which, however, may evolve into two before it is finished. What periodical will secure the article cannot be definitely said, but in all probability the readers of the Century will find it in one of their forthcoming numbers. By her friends Mrs. Cleveland's taste for literature is well known, and her compositions at college show that she can glide easily and effectively in her hand. The Century's editor, Mr. Richard Watson Gilder, is a close friend of the Clevelands, and it is doubtless due to his persuasion that Mrs. Cleveland has consented to write something for publication. The channel through which it will be given to the public seems, therefore, easy to define.

The Progress of the Equitable.  
The report of the Equitable Life Assurance society of the United States for 1888 is published to-day. It shows that new policies were written for more than \$158,000,000. The surplus has been increased to \$20,794,715, while, at the same time, nearly twelve millions were paid to policy holders during the year. The company have realized practically during the year the advantages of life insurance, in being able to share in the benefits which the Equitable is extending to all parts of this country and the world. The outstanding assurance is now reported as more than \$550,000,000, and in this respect, as well as in almost every other particular, it is one of the leading insurance companies of the world. The Equitable is doing a great work as an educator, and we are glad to note the strong hold which it has upon the confidence of the public, as indicated by its business during the year.

Excursion Rates East.  
The Union Pacific railway company will sell excursion tickets from Helena to Council Bluffs, Omaha, St. Joseph, Leavenworth and Kansas City from Jan. 20 to Feb. 1, inclusive, for \$40 for the round trip, good ninety days from date of sale.  
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The Verdict Unanimous.  
W. D. Sult, druggist, Bippus, Ind., testifies: "I can recommend electric bitters as the very best remedy. Every bottle sold has given relief in every case. One man took six bottles, and was cured of rheumatism of ten years' standing." Abraham Hare, druggist, Belleville, Ohio, affirms: "The best-selling medicine I have ever handled in my twenty years' experience, is electric bitters." Thousands of others have added their testimony, so that the verdict is unanimous that electric bitters do cure all diseases of the liver, kidneys or blood. Only a half dollar a bottle at R. S. Hale & Co.'s drug store.

A Woman's Discovery.  
"Another wonderful discovery has been made and that, too, by a lady in this country. Disease fastened its clutches upon her and for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were undermined and death seemed imminent. For three months she coughed incessantly and could not sleep. She bought of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption and was so much relieved on taking the first dose that she slept all night and with one bottle has been miraculously cured. Her name is Mrs. Luther Lutz." Thus writes W. C. Hamrick & Co., of Shelby, N. C. Get a free trial bottle at R. S. Hale & Co.'s drug store.

The following from the pen of Mr. M. P. Birdwell, editor of the Marion (Iowa) Pilot, will, we believe, be of interest to many of our readers. He says: "It is with pleasure that I certify to the real merits of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I have used it in my family for years and have all ways found it most excellent, and especially for colds, croup and sore throat. It is safe and effective." For sale by H. M. Parnen.

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